

Washington, DC - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today urged the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to support a proposal for renewable electricity generation at four of the New York City reservoirs in upstate New York. In a letter sent to DEP Commissioner Emily Lloyd, Hinchey expressed his strong support for the Western Catskills Hydro Project, a recently proposed initiative by the Delaware County Electric Cooperative (DCEC).

The DCEC hydroelectric proposal would utilize the hydro-electricity production capacity at the Schoharie, Cannonsville, Pepacton and Neversink Reservoirs to create up to 63 MW of new renewable electricity generation, which would serve the needs of more than 20,000 households at peak load.

The full text of Hinchey's letter to Lloyd follows:

July 21, 2008

Emily Lloyd, Commissioner

New York City Department of Environmental Protection

59-17 Junction Boulevard

Flushing, New York 11373

Dear Commissioner Lloyd:

I am writing to convey my strong support for the Western Catskills Hydro Project, a recently proposed initiative by the Delaware County Electric Cooperative (DCEC) to develop renewable electricity generation at four of the New York City reservoirs. The DCEC hydroelectric proposal would provide significant economic and environmental benefits to the State of New York, and I urge the DEP to work with the DCEC to move forward this proposal through the licensing process under the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

As you know, the DCEC has filed a notice of intent and pre-application document to initiate the integrated licensing process under FERC and also applied to that agency for a preliminary permit for the Western Catskills Hydro Project (FERC No. P-13222). This proposal to utilize the hydro-electricity production capacity at the Schoharie, Cannonsville, Pepacton and Neversink Reservoirs will create up to 63 MW of new renewable electricity generation, which would serve the needs of more than 20,000 households at peak load. This new generation capacity will help New York State meet its growing energy needs in an environmentally sustainable manner while also assisting the state in reaching its ambitious goals for renewable electricity generation. I am confident that the DCEC can develop this project in a manner that respects and maintains the reservoirs' primary function in providing high-quality drinking water to the residents of New York City and other communities while also protecting environmental resources in the Watershed.

This hydroelectric project offers an important opportunity for the communities in the New York City Watershed to realize direct benefits from the reservoir system. Further, it offers New York City a valuable opportunity to enhance and improve its relationship with the local communities, which I believe is vital to ensuring the long-term integrity and viability of the Watershed system.

I appreciate your consideration of this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide any additional information or be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Maurice D. Hinchey

cc: Hon. Michael Bloomberg

Hon. Joseph T. Kelliher, Chairman, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission